

memorandum

DATE: May 30, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Terry Kugler
Lineman Foreman III – TFSF-Bell

Proposed Action: Routine maintenance on the Colville-Republic No. 1 transmission line

PP&A Project No.: 2,139

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Location: Ferry and Stevens counties, Washington; Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Bell District

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace deteriorating wood pole towers and associated components (e.g. cross arms, insulators, guy anchors, etc.) along its Colville-Republic No. 1, 115-kilovolt transmission line in Ferry and Stevens counties, Washington. This routine replacement of 'danger poles' will occur during annual, one-day line outages scheduled to occur over the next three years, 2013 to 2015. Wood poles and components will be replaced in-kind in the existing tower holes to minimize ground disturbance, where possible.

Landing preparation around tower sites, where necessary, will occur within the existing BPA right-of-way and disturbance areas will be limited to improvements necessary to safely stage equipment during tower replacements or routine maintenance on the transmission line. For crews to safely access line structures, some existing access roads within the transmission line corridor may also require maintenance. Access road maintenance involves adding gravel, grading, and compacting existing access roads as necessary to maintain safe, reliable travel surfaces. Access road maintenance in relation to this project would occur only on existing access road prisms and does not involve substantial upgrades, widening, or improvements.

Project work will begin with site and landing preparation in spring-summer 2013, followed by danger wood pole replacements each summer, as needed. Maintenance replacements are determined on an as-needed basis, but the current list of structures identified for replacement over the next three years includes: 14/4, 14/6, 16/1, 17/2, 18/5, 19/4, 21/3, 24/4, 27/7, 28/1, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 28/6, 29/1, 29/2, 29/3, 29/4, 29/5, 29/6, 29/7, 30/1, 30/4, 30/5, 30/6, 30/7, 31/2, 31/4, 31/5, 31/6, 32/2, 32/8, 33/7, 34/2, 34/3, 34/4, 34/5, 34/6, 34/7, 34/9, 35/1, 35/2, 36/1, 36/2, 36/4, 36/5, 36/6, 37/2, 37/3, 37/5, 37/7, 37/8, 38/1, 38/3, 38/5, 38/6, 38/7, 39/3, 39/6, 39/7, 40/1, 40/3,

40/5, 40/6, 41/1, 41/2, 41/3, 41/6, 41/7, 41/8, 42/1, 42/3, 42/4, 42/5, 42/6, 42/7, 42/8, 43/1, 43/4, 43/6, 43/8, 44/1, 44/4, 44/5, 44/6, 44/7, 44/8, 44/9, 44/10, 44/11 & 44/12.

The maintenance work is necessary to ensure ongoing safe and reliable operation of the transmission line to minimize risk of outages and maintain power delivery in the region. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

The proposed project will not affect any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act, or historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project will not impact areas of great visual value and no project sites are within a governmentally designated scenic area.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Makary A. Hutson

Makary A. Hutson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 30, 2013

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Colville-Republic No. 1 Line Maintenance

Work Order #: 319049

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No work will occur at or around tower 14/6 until consultation is complete, including any potential adverse effect to the adjacent cultural site and necessary mitigation. BPA has conducted a survey and data recovery in areas where project work would occur and must complete all necessary regulatory consultation prior to tower replacement.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No landing work will occur in or near streams or wetlands. Erosion and sediment controls must be implemented, as needed.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BPA shall submit pre-construction notification and ensure compliance with all Clean Water Act regulations for any landing or access work, if needed.		
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other – Visual Impacts - existing facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Makary A. Hutson

Date: May 29, 2013

Makary A. Hutson, KEPR-4